IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicant requests that the Examiner amend the following claims which will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A retractable writing tool comprising:

a rear barrel (202) and a front barrel (207) having an opening (203) and a tip (101) capable of moving between a retracted position and a protracted position; a feeder (107) capable of conveying fluid to the tip (101) and a valve (206) having a front end (103) and a back end (104), where the front end (103) has a round face with a concave shape profile at the point where the tip is to exit and a slit (600), the front end (103) is adjacent to the opening (203) of the front barrel (207) so that in the retracted position the tip (101) is between the front end (103) and the back end (104) substantially sealed from outside air to substantially prevent the writing fluid from evaporating to the outside air, and preventing the release of vapor fluid from within the enclosure (102) when the tip (101) is in a retracted position, where in the protracted position, the tip (101) extends through the slit (600) of the valve (206) and opening (203) of the front barrel (207), where the valve (206) is made of silicone.

2. (Original) The valve (206) of claim 1, where the valve (206) is made of rubber.

3. (Original) The valve (206) of claim1, where the valve (206) is made of thermoplastic elastomer.

4. (Original) The valve (206) of claim 1, where the valve (206) is treated with fluorine.

5. (Original) The valve (206) of claim 1, where the valve (206) is made of thermoplastic vulcanized material including rubber cross linked with polypropylene.

6. (Currently Amended) The front barrel of claim 1, where the inner circumference of the front barrel (207) is about the same circumference or slightly ~~less~~ greater than the outer circumference around the front end (103) of valve (206).

7. (Original) The valve (206) of claim 1, where the front end (103) is separated from the inner circumference of the front barrel (207) by an open space.

8. (Original) The valve (206) of claim 1, where the back end (104) has a hole (1500) that is adapted to seal around the leading section (1700) of the cartridge (204).

9. (Withdrawn)

10. (Currently Amended) The valve (206) of claim ~~9~~ 1, where the valve (206) has at least one cavity (901) to position the valve (206) at a predetermined position within the front barrel (207).

11. (Currently Amended) The front barrel (207) of claim ~~9~~ 1, where the front barrel has at least one tab (1600) that is adapted to engage with at least one cavity (901) to position the valve (206) at a predetermined position within the front barrel (207).

12. (Currently Amended) The cartridge (204) of claim ~~9~~ 1, where the cartridge (204) has at least one flat (2000) adapted to engage within the rear barrel (202), the rear barrel (202) adapted to receive the flat (2000) for guiding the cartridge 204 along an axially direction without rotating.

13. (Currently Amended) The valve (206) of claim ~~9~~ 1, further including a tension device (1000) around the front end (103) to substantially close the slit (600) when the tip (101) is in the retracted position.

14. (Original) The tension device (1000) of claim 13, where the tension device (1000) is a ring.

15. (Original) The tension device (1000) of claim 13, where the tension device is an elastic band.

16. (Withdrawn).

17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Currently Amended) The valve (206) of claim ~~9~~ 1, where the valve (206) is made of thermoplastic vulcanized material including rubber cross linked with polypropylene.

19. (Currently Amended) The valve (206) of claim ~~9~~ 1, where the front end (103) has a concave shape profile with a slit (600) that is formed along the longitudinal axis (301).

20. (Currently Amended) The valve (206) of claim ~~9~~ 1, where the front end (103) has a convex shape profile with a slit (600) that is formed along the longitudinal axis (301).

21. (Currently Amended) The valve (206) of claim ~~9~~ 1, where the front end (103) has a substantially flat profile with a slit (600) that is formed along the longitudinal axis (301).

22. (Currently Amended) The valve (206) of claim ~~9~~ 1, where the front end (103) has an outer circumference, and further including an array of ribs 91400) along the outer circumference to support the front end (103) to close the slit (600).

23. (Currently Amended) The valve (206) of claim ~~9~~ 1, where the back end (104) has a hole (1500) that is adapted to seal around the second leading section (1702) of the cartridge (204).

24. (Withdrawn).

25. (Withdrawn).

26. (Withdrawn).

27. (Withdrawn).

28. (Withdrawn).

29. (Withdrawn).

30. (Withdrawn).

31. (Withdrawn).

32. (Withdrawn)

33. (Withdrawn).

34. (Withdrawn).

35. (Withdrawn).

36. (Withdrawn).